



For more information about the issues before the state legislature, visit my Web site at:

<http://hrc.leg.wa.gov/members/anderson.htm>



5th District

2004 Session Review

Rep. Glenn Anderson

At a Glance

Jobs pay the bills

Our state's business climate is ranked among the worst in the nation.

Making state government accountable and responsive

State government must adapt to higher public expectations of getting things done.

Transportation

Investing in our network of roads and public transportation is essential to getting our economy moving again.

Our Natural Environment

Our natural environment is an exceptional treasure that provides for outdoor recreation, a refuge for wildlife, and jobs in both timber harvesting and tourism.

Public Safety

We live in anxious times: Our nation is at war and we can't afford to take any shortcuts to protect the public.

Education

State spending on K-12 schools has increased 37 percent over the last 10 years and at \$10.6 billion accounts for 45 percent of the state budget.

April 2004

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

The last several years have been challenging for our state's economy and the families in our community. The struggle of our high-tech industry and the loss of almost one in four high-wage manufacturing jobs have significantly impacted families, as well as our state's ability to invest in our cherished Northwest quality-of-life.

I support smart and targeted government investment in our schools, roads, hospitals and environment. I also believe we must adhere to responsible budgeting and fiscal discipline to create a government that lives within its means and a business climate that creates jobs for working families.

I voted to cut the rate of growth in excessive government spending in the 2003-05 budget. We balanced the budget without draconian cuts to essential government services and without general fund tax increases. We even created a small reserve of \$300 million. But it won't last long.

With the current level of state services, the budget is expected to face another \$2 billion shortfall in the next four years. It is important to "stay the course" on fiscal discipline now to avoid more radical consequences in the future.

This session review offers a brief summary of the issues I supported over the last two years on your behalf. Much unfinished business important to the citizens of our district and our state remains to be achieved, but even in challenging times progress can be made.

It's a privilege to honor your trust and represent you in Olympia.

Sincerely,

Glenn Anderson
State Representative

Jobs Pay the Bills

Our state's business climate is ranked among the worst in the nation. Our ability to successfully compete for jobs is crippled by excessive government regulation, unreasonable labor union demands, unworkable permitting requirements, and the lack of affordable health care options. Supporting employers that provide family wage-jobs helps pay for quality-of-life investments in schools, hospitals, roads, and parks.

I supported the following legislation:

- Attracting and retaining new technology industry jobs by renewing the high-tech research and development tax credit. [Signed into law]
- Preventing a blow to our economy by offering the Boeing Co. and related aerospace suppliers a tax incentive package. [Signed into law]
- Helping small businesses grow and create new jobs by offering tax credits equal to the cost of complying with mandated government regulations. [Work in Progress]
- Creating and attracting jobs from global trade by expanding the self-permitting authority of port districts to successfully invest in local infrastructure and trade projects and then investing those profits into our K-12 schools. [Work in Progress]
- Developing curricula for high-demand, high-wage professions by requiring colleges and universities to develop master plans and adhere to performance contracts. [Work in Progress]

Making State Government Accountable and Responsive

The decline in public trust of our government to be accountable and responsive to the challenges facing our state is a significant roadblock to effective problem-solving. State government must adapt to higher public expectations of getting things done.

I supported the following legislation:

- Spending your hard-earned tax dollars in a more responsible way by authorizing the state auditor to initiate performance audits for government programs and spending. [Work in Progress]
- Reducing costs, improving accountability, and delivering better customer service to you, the taxpayer, by requiring a more efficient use of technology throughout state government. [Work in Progress]

Transportation - Moving Ahead

Investing in our network of roads and public transportation is essential to getting our economy moving again and reducing congestion so we spend less time in our cars and more time with our families and friends.

I supported the following legislation:

- Ensuring cost-effective management and on-time delivery of transportation projects through performance audits of the Department of Transportation. [Signed into law]
- Accelerating the completion of construction projects without sacrificing responsible environmental protections by requiring a comprehensive review of permitting processes to make sure they're streamlined and efficient. [Work in Progress]
- Enforcing Sound Transit's accountability to the public by electing a governance board to review investments in public transportation, especially the Seattle corridor light rail project. [Work in Progress]
- Assuring completion of over \$54 million of state transportation projects across our district over the last several years. There is an additional \$145 million in the pipeline for new construction and safety & maintenance projects in the district over the next four years. State spending for transportation projects in our communities continues to be among the highest of any legislative district in the state.

Significant projects include:

- SR169 corridor study
- SR18 Covington to Hobart four lane upgrade
- SR18/I-90 safety signal upgrade
- I-90 Sunset Interchange
- I-90/SR900 Issaquah Exit upgrade
- I-90 Snoqualmie Pass improvements
- Multiple SR202 improvements across Snoqualmie Valley
- Phase I of the SR520/SR202 Sahalee Way upgrade, tentatively scheduled to begin this fall



Our Natural Environment - It's What Makes Our State Special

Our natural environment is an exceptional treasure that provides for outdoor recreation, a refuge for wildlife, and jobs in both timber harvesting and tourism.

I supported the following legislation:

- Increasing funding and providing stronger incentives to phase highly toxic chemical substances, including mercury, out of products that may contaminate our environment. [Signed into law]
- Assuring a living forest for future generations through wildlife habitat and biodiversity protection and enhancement programs. [Signed into law]
- Requiring the Department of Natural Resources to have our state forests certified for the best environmental management practices to ensure a healthy and sustainable long-term future. [Work in Progress]
- Investing over \$9 million for facilities improvements and land acquisition in Mount Si, West Tiger, Iron Horse, Lake Sammamish and Pine Lake state parks.



Public Safety - No Short Cuts

We live in anxious times: Our nation is at war and we can't afford to take any shortcuts to protect the public. Additionally, the specter of sex predators and financial swindlers casts a shadow over our families' safety.

I supported the following legislation:

- Protecting people by requiring state and local governments to create a plan for an integrated and seamless emergency communications network to respond in case of a natural catastrophe or terrorist event. [Signed into law]
- Toughening our state laws to penalize sex predators and child molesters. This included successfully preventing the location of a Level III sex offender housing facility near the city of North Bend and guaranteeing that teachers who prey on children are removed from schools. [Signed into law]
- Protecting investors from unscrupulous stockbrokers and lawyers by increasing the funding and strengthening the authority of county attorneys to prosecute financial securities fraud. [Signed into law]



Education - Our Paramount Duty

State spending on K-12 schools has increased 37 percent over the last 10 years and at \$10.6 billion accounts for 45 percent of the state budget. Still, our stagnant state economy is impacting our schools. Due to our poor economy, the Legislature was forced to suspend spending increases called for in Initiatives 728 and 732, relating to smaller class sizes and cost-of-living raises for teachers. The suspension of these increases did not reduce any existing funding for schools. In fact, beginning teachers will receive an ongoing raise to help us attract and keep qualified teachers in our classrooms.

I supported the following legislation:

- Assuring WASL tests are focused on high-performance achievement by allowing retakes and requiring individual learning plans. [Signed into law]
- Allowing our local schools here in the 5th legislative District to collect an additional \$1.6 million from their local voter-approved levies in 2005, and continuing over the next three years, subject to voter approval. [Signed into law]
- Bringing new teachers with expert skills in math, science, and languages into our schools through the reallocation of federal education funding to the state Professional Educators Standards Board. [Work in Progress]
- Improving school funding and increasing spending accountability without general tax increases. The first step is a comprehensive review of our K-12 funding; expenditures and governance and would include finding for the legislature to consider. [Work in Progress]
- Encouraging healthier lifestyles by supporting stronger physical fitness programs for all children. (One in six children is now considered obese.) [Work in Progress]
- Encouraging more complete high school civics programs, including stronger instruction on the Pledge of Allegiance, Declaration of Independence, and U.S. Constitution. [Work in Progress]

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It's Your Government. I'd like to hear from you!

State Representative
GLENN ANDERSON

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As your state representative, I look forward to answering questions you have, providing information you request, or helping you in your dealings with state government.

I hope you'll take the time to contact me when I can be of assistance.

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2004
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